REMARKS

Claims 1-5 remain pending in this application, with all claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Franklin (U.S. Patent No. 4,677,616). By this amendment, claims 1-5 have been amended and claims 6-13 have been added for examination. In light of the amendments above and the remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 1:

Amended independent claim 1 recites "A data bus configuration, comprising ... a control bus coupled to said control station and to said reception station, wherein said control station allocates a logical channel, via said control bus, between said control station and said reception station." Franklin does not teach or suggest this limitation.

Specifically, Franklin discloses a packet switch control (PSC) 130 that interconnects calling stations to called stations via a data bus 140. (See Franklin col. 3, lines 38-44.) When a calling station needs to establish a virtual circuit call with a called station, the calling station sends a signaling packet to the PSC, which includes the logical channel number to be used for the call and the dialed number of the called station. (See Franklin col. 4, lines 3-12.) In response, the PSC 130 uses its cross-index for the dialed number and finds the address of the called station's port and a logical channel associated with the called station. This information is sent back to the calling port and stored in RAM. (See Franklin col. 4, lines 40-50.)

Subsequently in Franklin, when the calling station sends a packet to its port to be transmitted to the called station, the information is read out from the calling port's RAM and inserted as header address information into the packet to be sent to the called port and station via the data bus 140. (See Franklin col. 4, lines 50-60.) The receiving port serving the called station receives the packet by recognizing its port address in the packet transmitted on data bus 140. (See Franklin col. 4, lines 61-63.)

The Office Action asserts at page 3 that the "PSC" teaches the "control station" limitation of claim 1. However, even if the "PSC" is read for that limitation, Franklin clearly does not teach that "said control station allocates a logical channel, via said control bus, between said control station and said reception station", as required by amended claim 1. Rather, as discussed above, "the PSC uses its cross-index for the dialed number and, from this cross index, finds the address of the port which serves the called station and an idle logical channel associated with the called station." (See Franklin col. 4, lines 41-45.) This information is sent back to the calling station and eventually inserted as header address information into the packet to be sent by the calling station to the called port. Franklin's control bus 141 is only used during initialization of the system to program each port with translation information. (See Franklin col. 3, lines 59-61.)

Moreover, Franklin's "logical channel associated with the called station" extends between that station and its serving port (See Franklin col. 3, lines 55-56), not between the control station and reception station, as required by claim 1. Thus, when Franklin's called station receives the packet transmitted by the calling station, "[the receiving port] strips off the port address and passes the remaining data of the packet to the receiving station over the specified channel." (See Franklin col. 4, lines 63-65.)

Finally, as noted above, one logical channel of each station in Franklin is termed the signaling channel and is reserved for communication via its port with the PSC 130. The logical channel is permanently assigned between the station and the PSC. (See also Franklin col. 4, lines 33-34.) Effectively, Franklin's channels are not allocated in the same manner as required by independent claim 1.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1, along with its dependent claims, is patentable over Franklin for at least these reasons.

Independent Claim 2:

Applicants have also amended independent claim 2 to recite "A method ... comprising ... transmitting an address by the control station via the data bus; continuously monitoring the data

7

bus by at least one reception station; soliciting a reception station when said address transmitted by the control station matches an address designated for said reception station…"

Franklin, in contrast, does not teach or suggest "soliciting a reception station when said address transmitted by the control station matches an address designated for said reception station". Rather, as discussed above, Franklin discloses that the calling station inserts an address of the called station as header address information into the data packet before it is transmitted. (See Franklin col. 4, lines 50-60.)

Amended independent claim 2 further recites "allocating a logical channel between said solicited reception station and said control station, via the control bus." Again, Franklin's "logical channel associated with the called station" only extends between that station and its serving port. (See Franklin col. 3, lines 55-56.)

Therefore, Applicants also submit that independent claim 2, along with its dependent claims, is patentable over Franklin for at least these reasons.

Independent Claim 5:

Independent claim 5 has also been amended to include similar limitations as independent claim 1. Specifically, amended claim 5 requires "a control bus coupled to said control station and to said reception station, wherein said control station is configured to allocate a logical channel, via said control bus, between said control station and said reception station". As a result, claim 5 is also patentable over Franklin for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

Dependent Claims 6:

Applicants have also added new dependent claim 6 hereby, which is dependent on amended claim 1. Since new claim 6 includes at least the same limitations as discussed above with respect to claim 1, claim 6 is patentable over Franklin by virtue of its dependence on claim 1.

8

Additionally, new claim 6 recites "wherein said control station is configured to transmit an address of a reception unit before data is to be interchanged between said control station and said reception unit." In contrast, as discussed above, Franklin discloses that the calling station inserts the address information as header address information in the data packet before it is sent to the called station. (See Franklin col. 4, lines 50-60.) Franklin's address information is sent as part of the package, while claim 6 requires that an address of a reception unit is sent before the data is to be interchanged. Accordingly, new claim 6 is also patentable over Franklin for this additional reason.

Dependent Claims 7-13:

Applicants have further added dependent claims 7-13. Claims 7-10 depend on independent claim 1 while claims 11-13 depend on independent claim 2. Since these new dependent claims have at least the same limitations as discussed above with respect to their respective independent claims, these newly added claims are patentable over Franklin by virtue of their dependence on independent claims 1 and 2.

Furthermore, independent claims 11-13 recite that "data is interchanged between said control station and said reception station until the control station allocates the logical channel to another reception station." In contrast, as discussed above, Franklin's logical channels are permanently assigned between the station and the PSC. (See also Franklin col. 4, lines 33-34.) Thus, they do not require allocation for only a specified time, i.e., "until the control station allocates the logical channel to another reception station." Thus dependent claims 10-13 are patentable over Franklin for this additional reason.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.
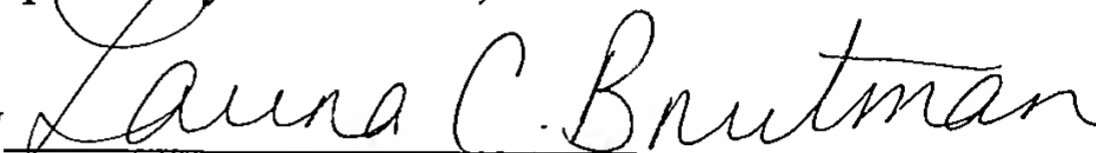
In the event a fee is required or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

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Respectfully submitted,

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